

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (new): An actuating device for uncoupling a connection at a towing installation, which installation is adapted to be rotated through 360 degrees in the horizontal plane and arranged on the deck of a vessel, which towing installation comprises a ring, which is mounted rotatably on the said vessel and is provided with the said connection for coupling to a towing cable, which actuating device comprises a flexible guide body, which is supported by a guide member on said ring or on said deck, and a contact body which is secured to said deck or said ring and, by displacement, can be brought into engagement with the said guide body to uncouple the said connection.

Claim 10 (new): The actuating device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the guide body is provided with a number of guide members, and a plurality of contact bodies are fitted, the distance between the guide members and the distance between the contact members differing by at least 10%.

Claim 11 (new): The actuating device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the guide body is provided with guide supports, and the contact body, during actuation can move in the direction of rotation in such a manner that it can move past one of the two sides of the guide support.

Claim 12 (new): The actuating device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the guide supports are designed in such a manner that in the radially inward direction they offer support for the guide body and in the radially outward direction they allow the guide body to move freely.

Claim 13 (new): The actuating device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the contact body, during rotation, successively moves the guide body out of the guide supports, onto the contact body and then back into the guide supports.

Claim 14 (new): The actuating device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the contact body is positioned at a sufficient radial distance from the guide supports to prevent them from coming into contact with one another, taking account of the slight deviations in shape of towing installation which can rotate through 360 degrees and the play in the bearing system.

Claim 15 (new): The actuating device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the contact body is provided with a roller/wheel/bearing at the location of the guide body.

Claim 16 (new): The actuating device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the two ends of the guide body follow the arc of a circle and partially overlap one another.

Claim 17 (new): The actuating device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the guide body is circular.